GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2041
ANSWERED ON:04.08.2003
CULTIVATION OF VANILLA
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether farmers in Karnataka are switching over from cultivation of arecanut to other crops like Vanilla;

(b) if so, whether they are hampered by shortage of adequate water supply, marketing and labour;

(c) if so, whether the Government have any plans to help the farmers suitably; and

(d) if so, the details thereof including supply of good seeds and latest technology?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV)

(a)&(b): The farmers in Karnataka are adopting inter cultivation of vanilla, pepper, cocoa in arecanut gardens. They are facing problems due to drought and shortage of adequate water supply. There is no problem in respect of marketing and labour.

(c)&(d): For promoting vanilla cultivation, under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme onMacro Management in Agriculture − Supplementing/Complementing the State Efforts through Work Plans, following programmes are implemented:
(i) Production and distribution of quality planting material at 25% subsidy; and
(ii) Establishment and maintenance of demonstration plots in the farmers` field in potential vanilla growing States by providing assistance @ 25% of cost of inputs limited to Rs.500/- per plot. Technical guidance regarding cultivation aspects, plant protection etc. is being provided to the farmers at taluk and district level by the State department of horticulture. Besides, the Spices Board under Ministry of Commerce is implementing following programmes to promote vanilla cultivation:

Programme	Incentive/assistance provided
1. New planting	Maximum of Rs.5/- per cutting or 50% of the cost of quality rooted cuttings of vanilla.
2. Setting up of processing units	Rs.2,500/- per unit to farmers towards 25% of the cost of setting up vanilla curing unit.
3. Training of farmers	Training of farmers to create awareness about vanilla cultivation.